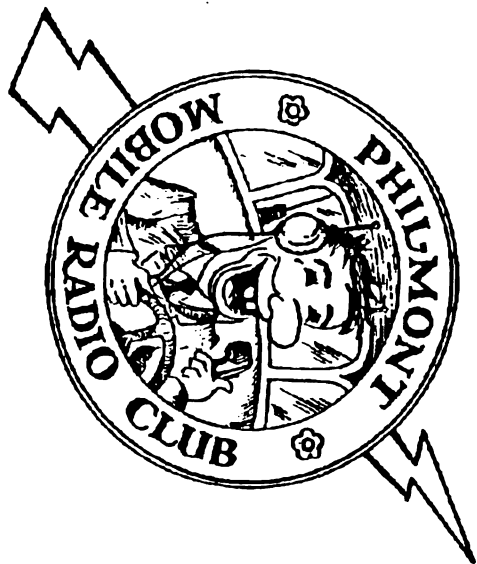


FIRST CLASS MAIL



A Publication of
THE PHILMONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
2113 EDGEHILL DRIVE, FURLONG, PA 18925

THE BLURB



PHILMONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB
W3RQZ • W3TKQ • W3QV

BLURB
November 1990



WANTED
Candidates for PHILMONT
OFFICES

 PRESIDENT

 VICE PRESIDENT

 TREASURER

 SECRETARY

 DIRECTORS



By Marshall Bob KUD
DEPUTY
N3GL4 - W3KAC - W3RM

is published monthly by, and for, the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC. whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. BLURB subscriptions are available to non-members for \$6.50 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at The Franklin Institute, 20th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Use the Winter Street (north side) entrance.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first **THURSDAY** of every month at The Franklin Institute - at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

- 24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ - (215) 448-1139

Repeater frequencies: 147.03 & 444.80 MHz - Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB
W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG

ALL LICENSED AMATEURS ARE WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3UY, Larry Clifford, 951 Surrey Drive, Blue Bell, PA 19422
VICE PRESIDENT: N3FVI, Bill Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
SECRETARY: N3GLH, Brad Swanson, 517 Cresheim Valley Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19118
TREASURER: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095

DIRECTORS

W3BBB (90); K3GBA (A); AK2I (91); W3IIM (A); W3IIN (A); K3KUD (91); W3LKI (90)

COMMITTEES

Archives:	W3IIN	Membership:	W3IIN	Repeater:	W3BBB
Awards:	KA3AMO	MO-COM 5:	N3DHI	Special Events:	N3FVI
BLURB:	W3IIM	Net Control:	KB3IV	TVI	WA3AUN
Budget /Audit:	W3IIN	Nominating:	K3KUD	VE Program:	ND3Q
Directory:	WB3KOJ	Program:	N3FVI	W3TKQ:	W3PWG
DX:	WA3AUN	Publicity:	-----	Welcome:	W3VVS
		Refreshments:	N3FVI		

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Assistant Editor/Typist: W3IIN

N3DHI, K3GBA, WB3KOJ

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET



APPLE BYTES

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 Rita DeSimone (XYL K3YOD)
Charles Weigand - KA3EBC
08 John J. Carbonaro - WA3TPH
12 Thomas G. Burns - N3GXX
Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX
13 Charles M. Snyder - W2HSA
18 Howard C. Gilpin - W3SRU
19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH
22 William H. Popovic - N3FVI
24 Dolores Policarpo (XYL N3GMH)
25 William E. Rhoads - ND3Q
26 John Clifton - KA3RRG
27 Melvin S. Toren - W2GMA
29 Robert Namm - K2RRC

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?
Help Phil-Mont by joining or renewing through the club.
Contact KB3IV for the details.

*You're Invited to Ole Timers' Night
at The Franklin Institute*

Wednesday, November 7

Wine and Cheese Reception at 7PM

A Short Meeting Follows

great big hunk of the stuff for everybody. But at least everyone can now brag that they tasted poi. (By the way does anyone need any wallpaper paste?)

Next came the program. After last year's banquet there was a very determined committee that the program should start on time, adhere to the schedule and quit on time. The result was that the yakkin' started while the eatin' was going on, and, probably one of the rarest events in Washington, it finished 6 minutes earlier than the time allotted for it. Recipient of the "Ham of the Year" award of the Mobile Club was Don Johnson, W4ZLN, quite a swap from the award that he received last year which happened to be the Jassack Award. The current holder of this award has to present it to another each year. Don was in a predicament - there were so many qualifying candidates that in trying to select one he wasn't getting any sleep. So he finally gave it to the one that qualified last - K4EAM.

Then came the floor show - seven girls and six boys. There were group dancing numbers, individual dancing numbers, singing and a particularly delightful session wherein five of the fellows in the audience learned the hula. To close the show, there was group singing (someone stole the cue card, or the Teleprompter broke, or something, at least the orchestra had a little trouble getting started on a couple of numbers). Then to finish out the evening there was dancing until Aloha 'Oe.

Sometimes little things make a big difference. (Something about the loss of a battle on account of one little horseshoe nail). Anyway it was as warm as Waikiki beach. Apparently everyone seemed to feel that that was "the way it was". Later it developed that the air conditioning was turned low, and if anyone would have simply turned a knob, those Philly boys might have needed those parkas. It was unfortunate, but it did happen.

There was particular difficulty with one fellow who wanted to get out and come in again through the hula line all evening - even his wife had trouble keeping him located. Seems like he arrived wearing his own lei, but when he saw the line he went back upstairs and loaned Johnson his lei. Then after he was in and got one from the girls he went upstairs and gave that one to Johnson and came in again. Finally after a shortage of leis developed down stairs (there was 1 1/2 for each person there) something had to give. The club should create a special award for this kind of decorum.

The club turned down the sale of many many tickets, all of them having been sold nearly three weeks in advance of the actual date. No one could anticipate such a demand but all can be assured that next year all will be accommodated.

One of the boys from Philly was all mixed up on pronouncing "Luau". For some reason or other he was always saying "Lulu"!

REPEATINGS

Rumor has it that W3D\$G has retired... W3UQ is in intensive care in Baltimore - has pneumonia, liver trouble, and a bleeding ulcer... ICOM day at Hamtronics, December 8... There'll be key-lime pie at the December Mid-Month meeting... Snowbirds flying south... Spencer's going into the used refrigerator business.

The PREZ SEZ

Larry Clifford, W3UY

Lately, Phil-Mont has been doing a lot of soul searching, talking and, in general, is in somewhat of a divided camp regarding when, and where, our radio club will meet, the continuation of our sponsorship of W3TKQ, and VE exams.

Regardless of what your individual opinions and views might be, we cannot deny that Jake, AK2I, has enthusiastically pursued the assignment the board gave him — be Phil-Mont's representative to the Franklin Institute.

As President, I can neither endorse, nor withhold, an endorsement of his recommendations, because this involves the entire club, not just a few of us. Yet the problem was thrust upon us by current policy of the Institute, the very institution we have supported through W3TKQ.

Unfortunately, this editorial must be prepared prior to the October Board of Directors' meeting. The Board's decision likely has become common knowledge very quickly. It is my hope, however, that a large number of members will have passed-on, to the Board, their feelings and wishes in this matter. At the October General meeting, we obtained a consensus of the feelings of the 26 club members there present. Have the other 109 members made their thoughts known, or do they really care?

Today, my main concern is that what is best for Phil-Mont, as a club, dictates the

direction the Board points this club. I hope it will be in the direction of a better Phil-Mont — not in the direction of a narrow band of interests.

If the Board's recommendations do not conform to what you personally would like, please don't let it be a chip on your shoulder. Phil-Mont is the very best radio club in the Delaware Valley. Be proud of the club and what it does. Its goal — the betterment of Amateur Radio — will not fail just because the day, or place, of the club's meeting is not absolutely convenient for you, or that you hold some animosity to the host supplying our meeting space. Remember, during the past few years, club members present at the monthly general meetings has been in the 20s versus a full membership of 136.

As for meetings at the Institute, the only constraints are that we meet on a day that the Institute is open, and we vacate the building by closing time. Since we are the guests of the Institute, and if we want to meet there, we must play using their rules, just as we should have to follow the rules and regulations of any other host.

Let's see what the Board of Directors comes up with. Then, whatever their recommendations, let's run with it for a while. After all, the only thing chiselled in stone is our cemetery head stone. Let's not bury Phil-Mont yet.

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY

THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30 PM *sharp*

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

For Information Call ND3Q at

(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.

*** UPDATE ***

- Nov 7 **General Meeting**
Ole Timers' Night
7PM
- Nov 14 Directors' Meeting at
the "Buckingham Palace" of
WB3KAC
- Dec 5 **General Meeting**
and
ELECTIONS
with AK2I as
the JUDGE!
- Dec 19 Directors' Meeting at
W3IIM & N's
- Jan 2 **General Meeting**
- Jan 16 Directors' Meeting at
W3UY's

HAMFESTS

- Oct 28 SELLERSVILLE, PA
RF Hill ARC
- Nov 11 BELMAR, NJ
Shore Area Ham & Computer Fest
(Allaire Airport)
- Mar 3, 1991 DOVER, PA
York Springfest



CLUB INFORMATION
24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ
(215) 448-1139

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

from EPA FEEDLINE & others

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring their original license and one photocopy of it. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1990 test fee is \$4.95; there is no charge for a Novice test.

BELLMAWR, NJ
Monthly, 3rd Thursday
Bill Helmatag
(609) 546-7710

BRYN MAWR
Bob Haase, W3SA
(215) 293-1919

CENTER CITY
Monthly, 1st Thursday
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 482-0386
(215) 879-0505

LEVITTOWN
Dave Munson
(215) 788-7515

PERKASIE
Monthly, 3rd Monday
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

HATBORO
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

March 21, 1990

Woody Haldeman, W3PST
125 Keely Ave.,
New Britain, PA 18901

Dear Woody:

I am enclosing some copies of the Washington Mobile Radio Club's Auto-Call of May 1960 which might be of interest to you. As you read it you will find that those two that took 2 days to return previously are W3PXY and W3NIP [W2HSA -Ed].

This was the major highlight of our Club throughout its entire existence. We had fun!

Maybe you can push some old-timers' brains a bit with this. Let me know. 73

Andy Anderson, K0NL, 528 Montana Ave., Holton, KS 66436

THE MOBILE CLUB'S LUAU

Well, it's came and went: Right or wrong, good or bad, the Luau came to a very successful conclusion at the Waikiki on April 23, 1960, culminating plans of about four months.

There were Hawaiians — lots of them. As each person entered it was necessary that he (or she) run a gamut of very charming Hawaiian girls who placed a lei over his head, planted a big smackeroo on his cheek and wished him welcome. Next came the Washington Mobile Radio Club (WMRC) welcoming committee which handed out programs, favors, song sheets, etc., while the girls got to make one more side trip where Ethel was giving out the orchids. (Before the evening was over, many got two). There was the usual milling around, and, as usual when the Philly and Washington gang meet, the very usual telling of lies to see how big it could get before the other fellow would entertain doubts as to its possibilities.

The real de-but spelled this way to prevent comparison with the French word debut, pronounced day-bu) was when W3PXY and W3NIP came in. They attended the WMRC Banquet of two years ago which happened concurrently (and at the same time) as the worst snow storm in Washington and it took them two days to get home. These gentlemen (?) were clothed in parkas and carried signs proclaiming "Survivors of the 1958 WMRC Banquet."

Phil-Mont was there 20 strong, counting W4LSC who actually lives here but was a Charter member of the PMRC. He is now in Washington on a return tour of duty. There were many cries as to how Philly had made a Yankee out of him. Included in this aggregation were: W3s PXY, NIP, QQH, QZO, CUB, IRS, D\$G, AWH, YJM and LSC along with their respective wives (at least we presumed those girls were their wives).

Finally came the eating. At least it was different — native Hawaiian dishes. Interpreting the menu there, was Lomi Lomi Salmon, a salad with salmon the main ingredient; Lau Lau, lean Pork and spinach wrapped and steamed in authentic Ti leaves; Pipi Kuala, steak fried in a delicious sauce and cut into strips; Barbecued Ribs; Uwala, the Hawaiian word for sweet potato; Fried Won Ton; Halekulana Salad, Hale means house, Kulana means reputation, so this was a fruit salad specialty of the house. And there was a serving of Poi. Everyone got to taste it and it was agreed that the committee was right in not providing a

WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY." Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU," using the first two letters of each of their names.

Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO." They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM."

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington, and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to

Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the BILL. The Senator was so impressed with the Thesis that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand, and described how the little station was built, and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that, if the BILL went through, they would have to close-down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL, and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress, and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM."

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably till the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM."

*From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959
trx N3AVD and NS3Y*



MINUTES

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The October General meeting was called to order by W3UY at 20:10 hours. There were 27 members and 2 visitors attending. The visitors were NU3Y and Vira Johnston.

Membership - W3IIN announced that we have two new members, NS3Z and N3GEN.

Mo-Com - N3DHI reported that Mo-Com will be going to Packrats.

Repeater - W3BBB explained the new emergency autopatch codes. He also explained what should be done during interference on the repeater.

Nominating Committee - K3KUD reports that they are still working.

W3TKQ - AK2I repeated his previous reports on the station and the Institute, as well as answering many questions.

New Business - K3KUD told the general body about the Bell of Pennsylvania building on the Parkway, and how he has a firm offer from Bell of PA. for the use of the

building for our meetings and testing. Bob said that we could have the auditorium and adjacent rooms for meetings and VE testing.

Bob also answered several questions about the meeting room that Bell was offering. Jake made the motion "To change the meeting night, and time, to one that is suitable." This motion was kicked around by the general body until the motion became "To change the meeting to the first Thursday night of the month at 7:30 P.M." Jake's motion was seconded by N3AXJ. W3UY called for a vote from the members present. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 9 against and 3 abstaining.

The guest speaker was NU3Y who had a slide show about a DX expedition that he had recently returned from.

The meeting adjourned at 21:50 hours. Respectfully submitted; Brad Swanson, N3GLH, Secretary

MINUTES

OCTOBER DIRECTORS' MEETING

The October Mid Month meeting was held at the home of N3FTC and KA3AMO on October 17, 1990. Present were W3UY, N3FVI, N3GLH, KB3IV, W3BBB, K3KUD, K3GBA, AK2I, W3IIM, W3IIN, N3DHI, W3RM, ND3Q, N3GWG, W3AA, KA3AMO and WB3KAC.

The meeting was called to order at 20:15 hours by W3UY. N3GLH read the minutes from the October General meeting.

KB3IV read the treasurer's report.

Mo-Com - N3DHI reported that Mo-Com is considered sold. Abington is expecting to have the check to us on, or around, 11-01-90.

Special Events - N3FVI reports that the Thanksgiving Day Parade is coming up and that there will be some participation by club members.

Membership - W3IIN had one applicant to vote on, KD3QE, Larry Stevenson. KD3QE was voted in.

Award Committee - K3KUD made the motion to "rescind the motion of the Sept. 1989 board meeting, which eliminated the awards committee." KB3IV seconded the motion which passed. W3UY appointed the following to be on the committee, W3RM, WB3KAC and KA3AMO as chairman.

New Business - KB3IV was appointed to be net control chairman.

W3TKQ - AK2I has received a few replies to the letters he mailed to assorted computer manufacturers.

Meeting Location - W3UY asked for a discussion on Bell of PA. verses the Franklin Institute. Everyone present was invited to participate. After an hour of discussion, **W3IIM** made the motion for "the meeting place to stay at the Franklin Institute." The motion was seconded by **AK2I** and passed 6 to 4.

The next topic was what day to have the general meeting. **W3IIM** made the motion "to have the meeting on Sunday." **AK2I** seconded the motion which was defeated 6 to 4. [See article on page 17 -Ed]

N3GLH made the motion "to have the general meeting on a Wednesday night." The motion was seconded by **KB3IV** and passed 9 to 1.

W3IIM made the motion "to meet on the first Wednesday of the month." **KB3IV** seconded the motion and it passed 9 to 1.

KB3IV made a motion "that the meeting time will be from 7:30 to 8:45 PM." **K3KUD** seconded and it was carried.

W3IIM made a motion "for bimonthly meetings." **N3FVI** seconded, it was defeated 5 to 3.

KB3IV made the motion to "temporarily suspend the meeting night section of the bylaws." The motion was seconded by **N3GLH** and was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 23:08 hours. Respectfully submitted; **Bard (sic) Swanson, N3GLH, Secretary**

[Bard: a tribal poet-singer gifted in composing and reciting verses on heroes and their deeds. —Really? -Ed]



Will the secretary read-back the motion, please.

HUG YOUR REPEATER REPAIRPERSON

We reprint this article because we were recently reminded (by you know who) that Phil-Mont has had a repeater (of one sort or another) on the air since 1963!

Hugging is healthy: It helps the body's immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural: it is organic,

naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients, and 110% wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect: there are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, non-fattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theftproof, non-taxable, non-polluting and of course, fully returnable.

[Hey Jim, got a minute? -Ed]

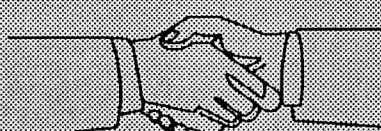
inx DELARC's NEWS

shop, as well, for the local school system. Since field day is over a weekend, we could use our general meeting to conduct a short business meeting, then demonstrate, to an audience, what a field day is actually like, and allow them to see it in action by setting-up chairs in the hallway just in front of **W3TKQ**. We both benefit, again.

10. This time (Sunday) might also serve as a useful time schedule for the VE testing program as well. With the proper coordination we could still have our VEs attend the General meeting along with the new and upgraded amateurs.

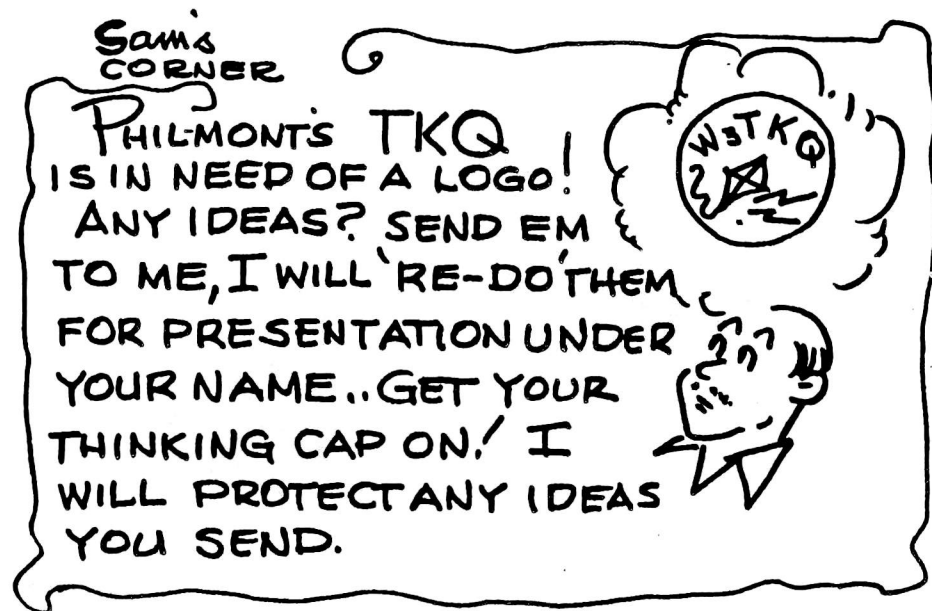
The suggestion that we meet in a different location, in center city, indicates that we could try it for three months, and if we don't like it, we could return to the Institute. I'm not so sure we could return to the Institute.

My answer is pretty much the same: why not try to make a new schedule work at The Franklin Institute, rather than negate, and toss away, the product of thirty years of association.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

CALL:	N3FSC
NAME:	Gregory Malone
HANDLE:	Greg
CLASS:	Technician
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 82 Cheltenham, PA 19012
OCCUPATION:	Police Officer
BUSINESS PHONE:	(215) 885-1600
WILL HELP WITH:	W3TKQ ; Repeater



The balance of the issues:

When first I agreed to start the VE program for Phil-Mont, I did it in order to promote new membership for our club, to provide a service to increase the amateur ranks, to provide a center city location for VE testing that was known nationwide, and to help to foster a better understanding between the two organizations. To attempt to separate the two at this time by suggesting that the VE testing, or the meeting location, would be better served by a new location, would negate the very image and relationship that I worked hard to develop, and would send a clear message to the Institute about Phil-Mont.

I chose the day and time, for these testing sessions, so as to coordinate them with the meeting night. In this way I was still able to attend the general meeting, conduct the testing session, and report on the session, all in the same night. A clean package, that created some time schedule disruptions for me, but was part of the commitment that I had to make if this program was to get off the ground and last. I think it has done both. To suggest we meet at any location other than the Institute would negate all my work. I ask you not to do so.

The day and time for our general meetings has been set by the Bylaws. I ask that you consider changing that day to a Sunday afternoon. Consider this:

1. Phil-Mont has the most unorthodox Net schedule in amateur radio in this area. Sunday morning at 9:30 AM: a time when most are going to church, or in other cases, just getting out of bed, but yet we still get a good turnout. Is it a challenge to be on these nets and participate?... Yes but if you really want to contribute, you will find a way. Please don't rationalize this situation any differently than you would a Sunday afternoon at The Franklin Institute. It could turn out to be the best shot-in-the-arm for our faltering attendance. Sure, some people won't be able to make it, but,

two to one, those are the same people that don't make it presently, and if we lose some regulars, we could pick up some others who find the day just perfect.

2. Parking would not be a problem since all metered parking is free over the weekend. *[This was questioned. -Ed]*
3. No evening away from the family would be encountered throughout the week.
4. Traffic would most certainly not be a problem.
5. We could conduct some "Open to the Public" meetings that could spur some interest in amateur radio. This could have a beneficial side affect, and we could also direct them to our station, W3TKQ, as well.
6. Additional requests for services, and/or facilities, could be a by-product of this arrangement. For example: if the Institute decided to open its doors to the public more nights per week, because of the ever increasing need for funds, then we could indeed benefit in the long run.
7. Families could become partners in this routine, by going to the Institute for a meeting, while the rest of the family goes on a tour of the Institute. We both benefit.
8. Some of our older members, who cannot drive during the night hours, would now be able to come to our meetings—in their old familiar haunt, and during daylight hours. We both benefit. The statistics on this point might very well serve to show the majority favor this point alone.
9. Field Day Operations could be shown as club activity, and a scheduled work

A GREAT IDEA!

The following is from the October 1990 issue of the ARRL Field Forum.

Road Signs

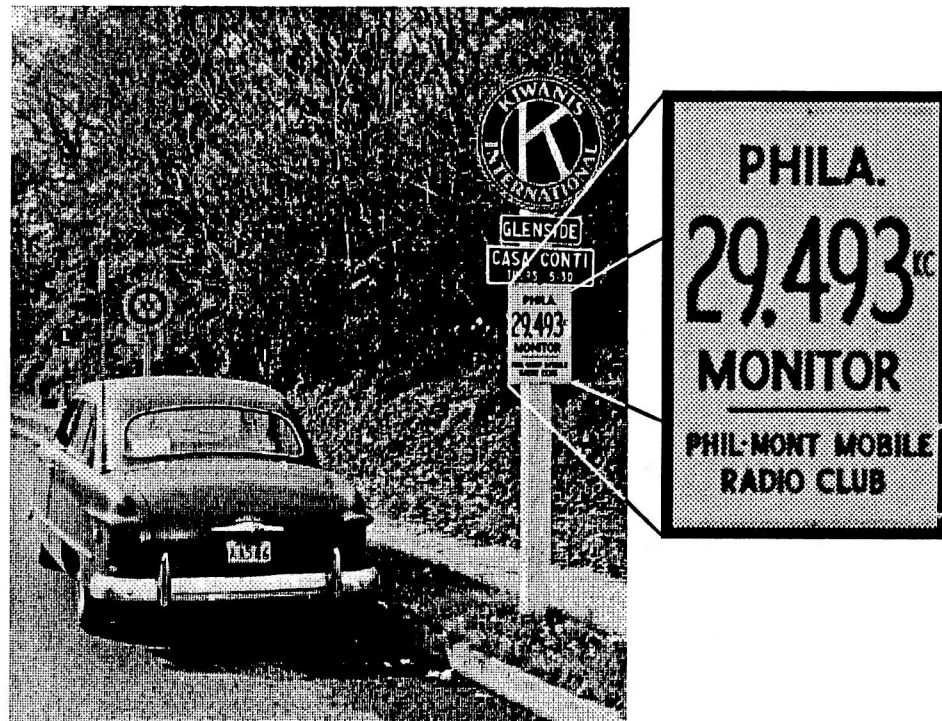
How can you make visitors, to your city or town, welcome to your club meeting and repeater? And how can you attract newcomers to join the ranks of amateur radio operators? Take a tip from the Genessee Radio Amateurs, Inc., of New York. As you cross the city line into many communities, you are greeted by a sign that lists all the local service clubs and their meeting place and time. Why not welcome out-of-town radio amateurs the same way?

Contact your local Chamber of Commerce to reserve space on the welcoming sign into your community utilized by service clubs. The C of C can give you information as to the size of the sign permitted. Because of the diversity of signs to do the job, having it prepared by local signmakers is recommended.

Giving your club's repeater frequency as a contact point is suggested. This will not only connect the visitor to some of the local hams, but provide the opportunity for that person to get details and directions to your local club meeting.

ARRL HQ welcomes photos and reports of your club's success in utilizing road signs to attract new attendees to your radio club meeting.

[ARRL, please note: This photo of W2FXU's (W3UVL) Ford was taken in 1953. -Ed]



66th MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS

OCTOBER

11 participants pass 17 elements
9 upgrades

Name	Call	From	To
Robert Buzinski	KA3VJR	General	Advanced
Jose Ramos, Jr.	KA3VPD	Novice	Technician
Michael Taylor	KA3SVX	Technician	General
Bernard Sandler			Novice
Jessica Sprague			Technician
William Sprague			Technician
Mario Steadman			Novice
Craig Tractenberg	KA3VOS	Novice	Technician
Robert Vann	KA3NKV	Technician	Advanced

Congratulations to all, and to the members of our VE team:

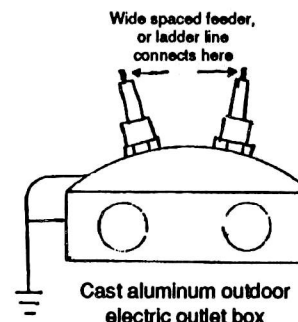
ND3Q Dusty Rhoads, Chairman
NZ3Q Ted Coates
W3TPH John Carbonara
W3UY Larry Clifford
NS3Z Bob Forrester

Contact Person:
W3PWG Rolland Madera



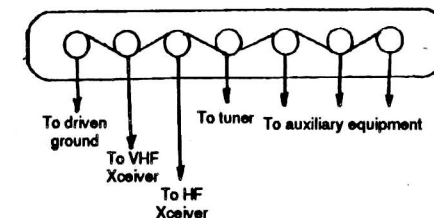
OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE

OLD SPARKPLUGS MAKE GOOD SPARK GAP LIGHTNING ARRESTORS



The top of the box is a fixture designed for supporting twin outdoor spotlights. The aluminum thread is not the correct pitch to mount the sparkplugs, but the steel plug easily cuts into the aluminum for a secure support. Be sure to ground the top plate if you use a rubber gasket. Mounting screws will usually take care of this for you.

INSIDE OF THE HOUSE



REMEMBER: Each piece of equipment should access the driven ground without daisy chaining other equipment.

Strip connector, series wired for common ground, serves as a mutual grounding point to prevent ground loops between equipment.

The Franklin Institute and Phil-Mont

Jake Kovakchek, AK2I

The following statement was presented to the Board of Directors prior to the scheduled vote to determine the location of future General Meetings of the club.

The year of 1990 might very well go down in history as the most crucial year of decision the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club will ever experience. Many will rue the day they did not become more involved in the issue at hand, and some will continue to cast scorn upon those who did.

The issue of changing, or not changing, our meeting location must finally come down to a vote of the Board of Directors. Is everyone aware of all the issues involved in this momentous decision? Have we forgotten that Plan B, so to speak, was an alternate plan we had to develop only if The Franklin Institute no longer allowed us to use their fa-

cilities? Are we seeking change because we, as Directors of Phil-Mont see an opportunity to change merely for the sake of change? It is my hope that we take all these issues into consideration before making a decision, and vote intelligently, without personal issues being a factor.

Phil-Mont has been associated with The Franklin Institute since April of 1960 – over thirty years. Our name has become synonymous with The Franklin Institute, an organization that, all other considerations aside, is a household word all over the country. It has been called an "International leader in hands-on science education." When amateurs in the local area think of "The Franklin Institute" they think of just one club: Phil-Mont. We, by association, have benefited from our close relationship, it cannot be denied. We must continue to nourish this partnership.

First of all, BEFORE that ground comes into the shack, we want to do some fancy footwork in the "lightning arrestor" department. If you use coax exclusively, you will want to install as many BlitzBugs as you have coax lines. These bugs should be connected to your outside ground. If you use a singe (sic) wire antenna, you will want to make a "spark gap" arrangement (see drawings).

A nice idea is to use a heavy duty box, preferably cast aluminum or copper or any other rust proof metal. You could even use an outdoor electric terminal box of the kind intended for outdoor electric sockets. These are made of cast aluminum, very stout stuff, and you can get all sorts of cover plates and gaskets to make them watertight. Your heavy duty ground is firmly connected to the box so that it becomes, within itself, a ground path. I use this system as a distribution point for all my antennas. My 600 ohm home-made ladderline comes to a pair of spark plugs which are screwed into the cover plate of the box. The tops of the plugs serve as porcelain insulator stand-offs for the feeder while the base of the plugs makes a spark gap for each leg of the feeder. The spark gaps are protected from the weather, and I have found that a normal gap of .020" serves my hundred watt rig just fine. Please see drawings. The best of this is that a ground path exists OUTSIDE the house.

Once you bring the ground line into your house, you should be careful of a ground "loop" which can exist if you do not connect to this lead correctly. Huh? Waz-zat? Correctly?

WARNING

THE AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT, AND NO ONE SHOULD CONSIDER CONSTRUCTING THIS DEVICE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE ARRL, THE FCC, THE FBI, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, COUNTY BUILDING CODES, BEN FRANKLIN'S HANDBOOK OF ELECTRICAL FOLLY AND MOTHER FLETCHER'S ALMANAC OF FEMALE DISORDERS. USE OF THIS DEVICE COULD LEAD TO PMS, WARTS, COXIC SPURS, DANDRUFF AND INCONTINENCE. THE TOMPKINS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB URGES CAUTION ...

"Correctly" means that you do NOT daisy-chain your equipment from one chassis to another, and to another, and thence to our ground. What you should do is provide a ground buss bar with lots of connectors so that each piece of equipment, your transceiver, your tuner, everything in the shack, is SECURELY wired to the buss. See drawings please. I use a junction terminal block (bought at a hamfest for twenty five cents) in which I connected all terminals together with a piece of RG-8u braid. This gives me plenty of room for all connections.

Be aware that a ground connection which is corroded, or loosely connected, is absolutely one of the worst noise generators you could ever find. This, and the presence of a ground loop, can wipe out all those weak signals you are trying to hear. MAKE ALL GROUND CONNECTIONS TIGHT!!!

Keep in mind that the whole concept here is to bleed off charges that build up all over your house, and your antenna systems, when an electrical storm is in your area. The clouds will develop different potentials between themselves, as well as the earth itself, and these unequal charges can become truly awesome. The idea is to prevent your home from becoming a breakdown point on one of those mighty electrostatic electrodes. If you have done a proper job of it, and a stroke vaporizes your antenna, you will be wearing a brown stripe in your shorts, and the OUTSIDE of your house, where your ground line was, might be a little bit scorched, and your telephone won't work anymore... but, Bunky, you can always wash those shorts, and you'll be glad you did.

THE YEAR IS 1927

Paul Bohlander, W3VVS

My father had a friend who was a salesman for General Electric lamp Division of Nela Park (Cleveland). Since the salesman was going to buy a new radio, he offered my father his radio at a very reasonable price. Thus, we became the first family on the block to have a radio, although second hand.

The radio was a 1924 Radiola III-A, manufactured by Radio Corporation of America, and originally retailed for \$83.00. The little wooden box was 6 1/4" high, 12" wide, and 6 3/4" deep. It used four type WD-11 tubes (detector, audio, and push-pull output). The speaker was a Farrand cone-type speaker.

The batteries required were six No. 6 dry cells connected in parallel for tube filaments, a 4 1/2 volt C battery for bias, and two 45 volt B batteries for the plate supply.

The "aerial" lead from the radio went through a hole in the living room floor, out the basement wall through a porcelain tube, and up the side of the house on porcelain nail-on insulators. The first portion of the "aerial" was fastened beneath the overhang of the roof and went completely around the house. The ground system was something to behold; it consisted of a Model T Ford radiator buried in the ground until the neck of the radiator was even with the surface of the ground. A wire was clamped to the neck of the radiator and went into the house and up through the floor to the radio. My father kept the radiator filled with salt water "to make a good ground," he said.

Finally the radio was ready to try out. All batteries were connected and the aerial and ground leads were attached. The speaker was placed on the table beside the little box. My father rotated the two FILAMENT rheostats and the tubes began to glow. There were noises from the speaker like two cats on a back fence, but soon my father adjusted the STATION SELECTOR and AMPLIFI-

CATION knobs to obtain a clear station. We listened for the station announcement; the station was WSPD, Toledo Ohio. With some further adjustment of the STATION SELECTOR, other stations were heard; WWJ and WJR, both of Detroit, and WTAM, Cleveland. Truly, the radio was an instrument for the man of the house with its complicated tuning procedures.

My mother became skilled at tuning the Radiola III-A and listened to the breakfast club, morning cooking programs, and the news programs.

We lived across the street from the public school. I could sleep late and still get to school on time in the morning. Another advantage was that I could run home at noon for lunch - being a "big" third-grader.

Friday, May 20th, I came home at noon, as usual, ready for my lunch. My mother told me the latest news: a former airmail pilot named Charles A. Lindbergh had taken off at dawn from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York, and was on his way across the Atlantic Ocean headed nonstop for Paris, France. I went back to school and told the teacher of the news.

The following evening, Saturday, May 21st, we listened to the radio as usual. It was after supper when the news flash came from WWJ Detroit: Charles Lindbergh had safely landed at Le Bourget Aerodrome, Paris, France, at 10:22 PM French time!

The flight from New York to Paris had taken 33 hours, 30 minutes. Lindbergh's plane, "The Spirit of St. Louis", was built by Ryan Airlines, Inc., San Diego, California. The plane was powered by a Wright Whirlwind J-5C rated at 220 hp.

An interesting sidelight to this story is that a young man who worked on the Ryan "Spirit of St. Louis" at the San Diego factory was later to become famous in his own right; his name was Douglas Corrigan!

THE W 3 T K Q

REPORT

by
Jake Kovalchek,
AK2I

Phil-Mont is in need of "a few good men."

So goes the saying for the United States Marine Corps. Now that it has been decided that W3TKQ will live-on at its present location, we are interested in developing a few good operators for the station. These operators must be dedicated and committed to the perpetuation of Amateur Radio in general, and must have, at least, a General Class operator's license, or higher.

Phil-Mont is dedicated to developing W3TKQ into the nation's foremost Amateur Radio station, and will work closely with the high school system with "Amateur Radio Workshops"; will carry the live broadcasts of the spaceship Columbia when it carries an Amateur Radio operator aboard; will work with NASA, and carry the transmissions of any other shuttle carrying amateur radio, so as to peak interest for the community; and will work closely with internal programs that either the ARRL or the Franklin Institute itself might develop for the perpetuation of Amateur Radio, and for the science education of our children. Phil-Mont is INVOLVED.

There are some benefits to be derived from becoming a Volunteer, and perhaps there are some costs as well. The total benefit package is listed below.

Rolland, W3PWG, and I, will co-chair this activity, and hope to obtain enough Volunteers to develop a set schedule, if the numbers permit. We need your help, and will require a copy of your current license, your Social Security number, and your dedication. Your commitment can help to develop a premier Amateur Radio station that will allow the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to live in perpetuity.

GREAT BALLS O' FIRE!

Russ Hamilton, W2FXU

I hate to talk about lightning. It's a silly superstition, I guess. Like a woman, the more you think you can predict what she will do, the more capricious she becomes. You don't want to be home when it's your turn for a blast because you and your shack might be fried as crisp as bacon. I've been asked to write a little about lightning. Here it is. Thank God I don't have to write about women.

The primary consideration, the thing you have been told over and over, ever since you became a ham, is the importance of a really good ground system. Not only will a solid grounding system improve your transmission and reception, not only will it possibly save your equipment and your life, but it could avoid a strike altogether, or if it happens, divert it from blasting your house to pieces.

So what is a GOOD, solid grounding SYSTEM? Like everything else, it doesn't come easy. Notice we said, "SYSTEM." You really can't expect a four foot rod, pounded into the ground, to give you a good grip on old mother earth. You have to really pin things down to old mom if you expect her to help you out.

First, even if you have a relatively high water table at your QTH, you might consider an eight foot rod, copper covered, sticking into mama with only six inches above the ground on which to clamp your straps. Such a thing can be found in electrical supply houses (all new houses have to have one). No, those cute, little four foot rods you can get in Radio Shack just won't cut it. Of course, you could use a steel, galvanized pipe eight feet long, but how you gonna pound it down?

For this you get a four foot pipe with a wide enough bore to swallow your eight footer, and on this you screw an end cap. This configures itself into what some farmers call a "come along." You simply use it as a pile driver, hoisting the two pipes up

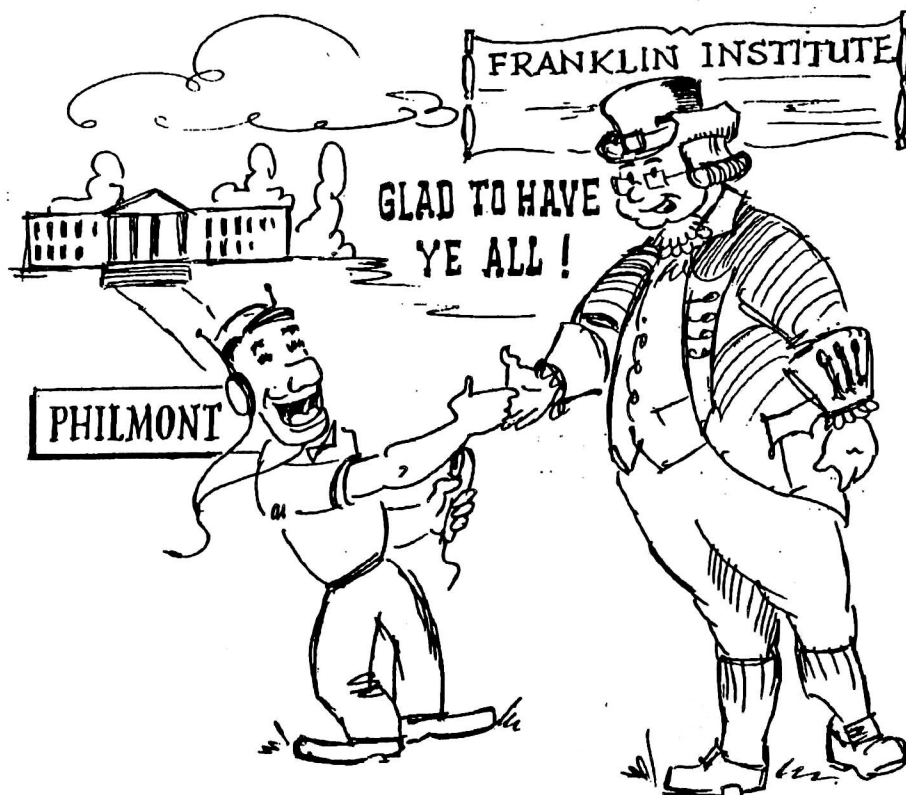
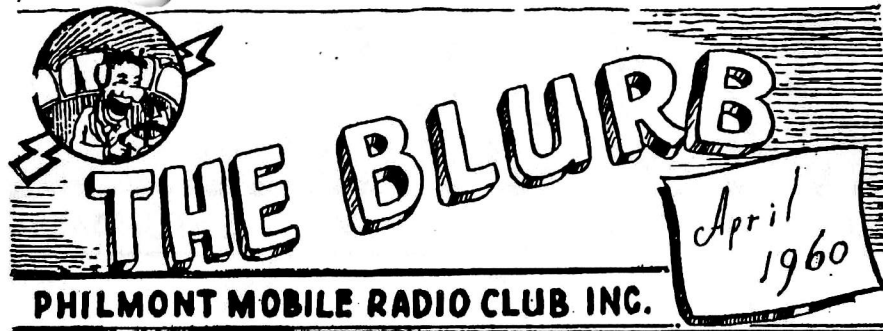
together, then pounding until you have your inner pipe sticking up at the four foot level, whereupon you sledge it in the rest of the way. I said it wasn't gonna be easy! You can hit a rock and have to start all over again, or you can hit a water main to your house and have an \$800 repair bill, or you can have the head of the sledge fly off and coldcock your wife, or you can inadvertently drive the rod (or pipe) right down into the ground so far that it would take an act of congress to get it out.

Smart people, with a long enough hose and good water pressure, will take an eight foot copper pipe, sweat a hose fixture on the end of it, and let hydraulics do the work. Ye pipe will settle-in like a bull in the rutting season.

Now, suppose you have your rod in the ground, all seven and a half feet of it. Should you be happy now? NOT AT ALL. You only have the minimum. Your next move should be to sink another rod about eight or ten feet away, and bond the two of them together with #10 or #6 (no wire is TOO big) so that each pipe/rod sees essentially zero resistance between them. It is time now to think about getting the best, heavy duty clamps your bucks can buy, so that you can get this ground up into your shack. You could use the braid off of an old piece of RG-8u coax, pounded down flat, as a lead-in conductor to this ground, but I would like, if I could afford it, a length of #4 if I could swing it.

Short is the word. Keep the lead-in short, if you can. Yes, I know, that's not easy either. I can hear you whining, "But my shack is upstairs, wumIgonnado???" Next time a big storm comes up, get your mother-in-law to hold the end of the coax for you while you go out to lunch.

OK, now that you have this big wire coming into the shack, here's where it gets down and dirty. How do you hook up? You think it's been tough so far, get a load of this:



Still glad!

W3TKQ Volunteer Operator Benefits Package

1. Free family membership in the museum.
2. Free parking in the parking deck.
3. A 20% discount in the Museum shops.
4. A 25% discount in the museum restaurants.
5. Free photo ID badge.
6. Free training.
7. Free museum publications and notices.
8. Invitation to social events and trips.
9. Free admission to the Museum and Planetarium.
10. Free complimentary subscription to The BLURB.
11. Be part of an exciting science museum by helping others.

There it is - a great package. Join us at W3TKQ and be a member of the TEAM.

"THAT'S NOT MY JOB!"

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Join the Phil-Mont "signal corps" at The Franklin Institute!

1990

NOVEMBER

1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<i>There is no limit to what a man can do, or where he can go, if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.</i>		1 LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute 6:30 PM sharp	2	3
4 2M NCS AK2I 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3PWG	5	6 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM <i>Election Day</i>	7 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute <i>Ole Timers' Night</i> 7:00 PM	8	9	10
11 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3AOA <i>Veterans' Day Shore Area Hamfest</i>	12	13 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM	14 DIRECTORS' MEETING at WB3KAC's Buckingham Palace	15 <i>Great American Smoke Out</i>	16	17
18 2M NCS K3JJO 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3RCE	19	20 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM	21	22  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23	24
25 2M NCS NS3Y 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS AK2I	26	27 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM	28 BLURB Folding	29 BLURB Mailing	30 <i>Hurricane Season Ends</i>	